Different rates for selling of coal

†1029. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different rates for the sale of coal are fixed in the country;

(b) if so, whether subsidy is also provided at the time of fixing such rates;

(c) the different rates for sale of coal during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(d) the amount of subsidy provided for sale of coal during each year of the said period; and

(e) the consumers to whom subsidized coal is provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (e) After complete deregulation of coal prices with effect from 01.01.2000, coal companies are empowered to fix coal prices in the country. The prices for the same grade of coal can very from company to company and coalfield to coalfield within the same company.

During 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto December, 2006), part of the coal produced by coal companies was sold through e-auction. during the e-auction period, prices for sale of coal to different sectors were as follows:

(i) Core sector consumers were sold coal at notified price.

(ii) The successful bidders who participated in e-auction, were sold coal at their successful bid prices.

(iii) National Consumer Co-operative Federation (NCCF) and State agencies Consumer Co-operative Federation (NCCF) and State agencies were supplied coal at a premium of 20% above notified price for small and tiny consumers.

(iv) the linked non-core sector consumers were issued coal upto Maximum Permissible Quantity (MPQ) at weighted average e-auction price of previous months.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Under the interim coal sale policy, system of e-booking has been started from January 2007 and the prices payable by different sectors under e-booking are as follows:—

(i) Core sector consumers are being issued coal at the notified price.

(ii) The linked consumers of non core sectors are being sold coal at a premium of 20% above the notified price upto the MPQ.

(iii) NCCF and States are being given coal at 20% above the notified price.

(iv) Other customers procuring coal through e-booking route are being sold coal at the premium of 30% above the notified price.

Illegal mining in various States

1030. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal coal mining has been going on unchecked in areas touching West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand like Asansol and has caused cracks in the highways,

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of coal extracted illegally during the last three years and the responsibility fixed on those who failed to check this illegal mining; and

(d) the steps taken to stop this illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Cases of illegal mining are detected predominantly in the eastern region, mainly in the States of Jharkhand, covering BCCL, CCL and ECL, and West Bengal, covering ECL and BCCL.

The main reasons for illegal mining activities are densely populated coal bearing areas and adverse socio-economic conditions.

(c) Illegal mining takes place stealthily and clandestinely both inside and outside leasehold areas of CI L subsidiaries. As such it is not possible to quantify the exact amount of coal, which was extracted illegally during